

What you need to know as a Sturgeon Guard volunteer...

PRIOR TO YOUR SHIFT

Please call the Sturgeon Guard Hotline at 920.303.5444 to learn whether guards are needed for your assigned shift. If sturgeon are NOT actively spawning, your shift will be canceled. Call the Sturgeon Guard Hotline late afternoon prior to your shift for the most up-to-date information.

DAY OF YOUR SHIFT

CHECK IN: All guards are required to check in at Sturgeon Camp prior to starting their shifts. We recommend arriving between 9:15 and 9:30 a.m. That will give you plenty of time to check in, learn about your assigned site, ask any questions you might have, enjoy a continental breakfast, pack a lunch and then travel to the spawning site. Sturgeon Camp is located at N7851 County Road M, about 6 miles north of Shiocton. During check in you will receive:

- A reflective vest to help identify you as a Sturgeon Guard. (The vest will need to be turned in at the end of your shift.)
- A hat, courtesy of Sturgeon for Tomorrow for you to wear and to keep as a "Thank You" for your efforts.
- A packet of educational information including an FAQ to help you answer questions that spectators might ask.
- A map of your assigned site.
- Other material as appropriate.

SITE ASSIGNMENTS: You will be assigned a spawning location during check-in. We do not know in advance where the sturgeon will be spawning because they are constantly moving upstream. Warden rovers and Fisheries staff identify spawning locations daily.

WHAT TO WEAR/BRING: Important - Dress appropriately for the weather and bring your cell phone so that you can remain in contact with the on-duty warden. Also, feel free to bring lawn or camp chairs so you will not be standing all day. You may also want to bring a book or similar materials to help pass the time during quiet times.

AT THE SPAWNING SITE: Some spawning sites are public and attract hundreds of spectators. Others are on private property with no access by the public. In either case, your responsibility is to monitor the activity and use your cell phone to alert the on-duty warden of any significant threats to the spawning fish. A warden also will try to stop by at least once during your shift to check on how things are going. We also hope you will take this opportunity to:

- Use the educational information provided to you to answer questions from the public. You are in an ideal situation to add to their knowledge of this unique natural resource.
- Feel free to take breaks. Some sites do not have bathroom facilities, so you may need to drive to a nearby location to access one. Do not hesitate to do so.
- Enjoy the experience! Whether this is your first time guarding and seeing the sturgeon spawn or your 20th, it remains an amazing site to witness.

AT THE END OF THE DAY: You will need to return to Sturgeon Camp to turn in your reflective vest and formally "check out." **DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED** and we encourage you to stay, enjoy the meal and share your experiences with other guards and DNR staff who are on hand.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

Some of the Sturgeon Guard sites are on private property. Landowners graciously agree to allow us to use these sites to allow guard access during the spawning season. We do NOT, however, have permissions beyond guard and warden access. Because of these limited permissions we ask that guards:

- Leave pets at home.
- Do not fish or take part in similar activities.
- Please do not open- or concealed-carry a firearm because of our agreement with the State of Wisconsin's policies and procedures.

QUESTIONS? Please contact the sturgeon guard coordinator at 920-420-1140, DNRSturgeonGuard@Wisconsin.gov